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(1:82); new light is thrown upon the authorship of the republican gold plank in 1896 (1:314); there are new facts upon the appointment of John Sherman as secretary of state (1:329), upon the peace negotiations after the Spanish war (2:63), and the nomination of Roosevelt as vice president in 1900 (2:268). In the last case, as in other instances in which he mentions him, Mr. Olcott is lukewarm if not unfriendly to Colonel Roosevelt. He tells the story of the fight at Santiago without naming Schley.

Mr. Olcott's book will doubtless long have vogue as the completest collection of McKinley facts and as the expression of what conservative republicanism of 1916 thought of its course a generation earlier, but it falls below the high excellence of the recent works on Hayes, Hay, Hanna, Foraker, and Taft.

FREDERIC L. PAXSON

Western North Carolina. A history (from 1730-1913). By John Preston Arthur. (Raleigh, North Carolina: Edward Buncombe chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Asheville, North Carolina, 1914. 709 p. \$2.50)

Each of the twenty-eight chapters of this book abounds in recollections and observations of a man of wide experience, abundant humor, fine intellect, and ardent patriotism. It contains, also, the recollections of many of the author's friends and neighbors, some of which are here presented for the first time. Intermixed with all are the traditions of a land rich in natural beauty and in stories of daring and adventure. Though not always conforming to scientific methods of analysis and presentation, the book is interesting and has a local touch and color that make it very much worth while. Though giving much of interest regarding the neighboring counties, this book deals mainly with the history of Buncombe county, made famous long ago by Mr. Felix Walker's speech in congress on the admission of Missouri. To the demand of his colleagues for a vote, he asked to be indulged while he spoke "only for Buncombe," and thus the name of that county was made a synonym for "demagoguery" and show, and the English language was enriched by a most expressive word.

Following an introductory one, there are nine chapters dealing with the boundaries, colonial days, Daniel Boone, the state of Franklin, grants and litigation, county history, pioneer preachers, and roads, stage coaches, and taverns, respectively. Like the remaining chapters of the book these are too fragmentary to be as helpful as they might otherwise have been. Nevertheless, most of them contain useful and certainly interesting information. The adventures of pioneers and their efforts to form free governments, as seen in the Watauga association, are always interesting.

The local view point of the author characterizes the chapter on Boone; the tories play a large part in that upon the revolution; and Governor Sevier and Colonel Tipton play the leading rôles in that on the state of Franklin. The chapter upon the counties deals largely with the circumstances and conditions causing the formation of new counties and with the biographies of prominent individuals of western North Carolina.

In chapter XI, entitled "Manners and customs," Mr. Arthur makes his largest contributions. Though quoting extensively from Thwaites and others, it is here that his humor and descriptive powers are at their best. Here it is that he makes us see again buffaloes, deer, bear, wolves, panthers, and wild cats die at the hands of the hardy pioneer, or even at the hands of the pioneer's wife, the true heroine of western North Carolina. Here it is that "handy" men even in recent days made shoes, bullets, and powder, built houses, constructed tables, chairs, cupboards, harness, saddles, bridles, buckets, barrels, and plough stocks; they made, also, their own axes and hoe-handles and fashioned their own horseshoes and nails; they burnt charcoal and made wagon tires, bolts, nuts, and everything that was needed upon the farm. "Meanwhile the busy housewife could find no moment to call her own." She "unkivered" the coals to "kindle" the fires; she carried the water from the spring, and, while it was boiling in the "kittle," she fed the chickens, milked the cows; dressed the children, made bread, fried bacon, and made the coffee for breakfast. "That over and the dishes washed and put away, the spinning wheel, the loom, or the reel were the next to have attention, meanwhile keeping a sharp lookout for the children and the hawks, keeping the children out of the garden, sweeping the floor, making the beds, churning, sewing, darning, washing, and ironing, taking up the ashes, and making lye, keeping the cat out of the milk pans, dosing sick children, tying up burnt fingers, and toes, kissing the sore places well again, making soap, robbing the bee hives, stringing the beans for winter use, making the garden, planting and watching a few hardy flowers in the front yard . . . darning, patching, mending, reading the Bible, prayers, and so on from morning to night." And we are told that it is only a short time since all these things were; that "chinked and dobbed" houses have not yet disappeared from the land; and that there are those who because of poor means of illumination, retire and rise with the chickens, thus never missing such phenomena as the "falling of the stars" in the morning.

Chapter XII, "Extraordinary events," deals mainly with the subject of Abraham Lincoln's parentage. By one set of traditions his father was Abraham Enloe, a horse and slave trader, and by still another, John C. Calhoun. Admitting that the "testimony on which the story con-

cerning Nancy Hanks (Lincoln's mother) are based *do not* rest on the fabrications of his (Lincoln's) political enemies, but on the statement and significant silence of himself, his friends, relatives and biographers," the introduction of such elusive slander and gossip as that found in this book is in decidedly questionable taste. It is of doubtful value at any time, however true; no man is responsible for his parentage; and, if possible, the name of the south's purest and greatest statesman, John C. Calhoun, should be shielded from reproach. Besides, the scandals of Tennessee, Kentucky, and South Carolina have no place in a history of western North Carolina, granting even that the participants in those scandals did pass through or reside for a time in that beautiful land.

Then follow chapters on duels, bench and bar, notable cases and decisions, schools and colleges, newspapers, railroads, notable resorts, flora and fauna, physical peculiarities, mineralogy and geology, mines and mining, the Cherokee, the civil war, and politics. Of all these chapters that upon the Cherokee is probably the most interesting and instructive. It tells the pitiful story of a helpless people who had adopted the white man's civilization but who were compelled, nevertheless, to surrender to him the graves of their fathers. The chapter upon the civil war is largely an account of the "outliers" and "bushwhackers" of western North Carolina.

The book contains a complete bibliography and a carefully prepared index. It is well written and should have a special interest to the residents of western North Carolina and to their friends.

CHARLES H. AMBLER

Nullification controversy in South Carolina. By Chauncey S. Boucher, Ph.D., assistant professor of American history, Washington university. (Chicago: University of Chicago press, 1916. 399 p. \$1.25 net)

A period of twenty years has elapsed since the appearance of D. F. Houston's monograph, *A critical study of nullification in South Carolina*, with which work the title of Mr. Boucher's book inevitably suggests a comparison. In the opening chapter of the older book Mr. Houston made the comment that South Carolina "has never laid herself open to the charge of extravagance in expending energy or money in making for posterity records of her own great deeds or those of her great men. She has been as backward in preserving records as she has been forward in furnishing the facts worth recording." These twenty years have witnessed, however, much enrichment of the historiography of South Carolina; to realize this truth, one has only to recall the publication of Schaper's *Sectionalism and representation in South Carolina*